EARLY LEARNING
COALITION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Leglisative Affairs Committee Meeting
Unapproved Minutes

Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 3:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting
6302 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite 100
Tampa, FL 33619

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Facilitator: Gino Casanova, Chair

Committee Members Present: Amanda Jae*, Aakash Patel*, Brian Mays* and Tracye Brown*

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None.

ELCHC Staff:

Dr. Fred Hicks, Nancy Will, Gary Meyer*, Sabrina Ruiz*, Rebecca Salgado*, and Alison Fraga*

Other Attendees:

Paul Quin, Dennis Herbert

**Indicates attendance via Zoom meeting platform.*

CALL TO ORDER

Quorum Verification
Noting a quorum had been established, Vice Chair Brian Mays called the meeting to order at

3:03 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of March 6, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve was made by Aakash Patel. A second was made by Amanda Jae. The motion carried unanimously.

Signature: Robert Hyde
Robert Hyde (Oct 28, 2026 17:56:33 EDT)

Email: robert.hyde@suncoastcreditunion.com

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Hillsborough Day 2026: January 28, 2026

Dr. Hicks, shared with the committee the importance of provider representation at the upcoming Hillsborough Event. Dr. Hicks stated he would like to see Board members Amanda Jae and Annette Eberhart assist in the effort to spread the word out in the provider community ensuring that the Florida State Sunshine law is kept.

Tracye Brown shared from PM1 to PM3 at the end of the year 88% of students were deemed readiness.

Dr. Hicks shared this would be a challenging year ahead but would like to get everyone on the same page as far as legislative coalitions ask.

Aakash Patel shared that the buses provided by the Tampa Chamber are already available to book. Mr. Patel made mention that the tickets for the bus are first come, first served for any folks who are interested in traveling to Tallahassee via the Tampa Chamber.

Dr. Hicks stated that other executive directors across the state are in favor of asking for more funding, however, Dr. Hicks shared that he is in favor of asking for level funding that was given for the FY25-26.

Gino Casanova shared that with asking state legislators it is more about the timing rather than the number of people doing the asking.

Tracye Brown stated she shared the same sentiment as Mr. Casanova. Ms. Brown also shared earlier the work of meeting with individual elected leaders the better to include follow up.

Chair Patel shared that he would be attending a State House event on the 9th, and he was ready to share with every elected official the message and mission of the ELCHC.

Mr. Casanova stated that elected officials should be invited to the Children's Summit and recommended reach out district wide with a quick visit on Hillsborough Day 2026.

Dr. Hicks asked about tickets for the bus ride to Hillsborough Day 2026.

Chair Patel stated Mr. Bob Hyde would be able to provide more information.

Chair Patel asked Brian Mays if he had heard from the office of Senator Burgess. Mr. Mays stated that he was reaching out weekly to his office to confirm his attendance at the Children's Summit, however, he had not heard anything to date.

There was continued committee conversation on attendance for the Children's Summit in September.

Dr. Hicks shared briefly due to time that the ELCHC's notice of award was received on August 26 and there would be more details in the upcoming weeks after staff had time to work on the fiscal year's budget.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Citing no further business, Brian Mays made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:48 pm. Aakash Patel made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

Robert Hyde 28/10/2026

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Final Audit Report 2026-10-28

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